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PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AS  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE

Applicants:	Yi Xiao, et al.	
Int. Appln. No:	PCT/US2004/007793	
Int. Filing Date:	15 March 2004	
US Appln. No.:	To Be Assigned	Case No.: 21178YP
Filed:	Concurrently Herewith	
For:	PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF CHIRAL BETA AMINO ACID DERIVATIVES BY ASYMMETRIC HYDROGENATION	

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE  
DATE OF DEPOSIT September 15, 2005  
EXPRESS MAIL NO. EY660611394US  
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS  
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL  
SERVICE IN EXPRESS MAIL "POST OFFICE TO ADDRESS" SERVICE  
ON THE ABOVE ENVELOPE IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450,  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450  
MAILED BY Winston C. H. H.  
DATE 9-15-05

Sir:

The above-identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Please amend this application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are reflected on page 2 of this response.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this response.